

Point Three



The Torch magazine
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LEPRA

(pages 8-9)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.


This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover Picture

Msitumai was born in the leper colony of Makutupora and his sister came to look after him. Both are now back home. See feature on pp8-9 of this issue.

Photo: Lepra

Personal View

How to  Your Enemy

(Reprinted from *Compass*, the Journal of Toc H Southern Africa)

I never quite know how to respond to the person who comes up to me after hearing me speak about the need to love our enemies and says with a beatific smile. 'I don't have an enemy in the world.' Either they are saints, and there are precious few of those around, or they are blissfully unaware of what goes on within them. Our enemy, you see, is *anyone* we don't like or care to be with. Our enemy is anyone who doesn't like us or care to be with us. Come to think of it I have a number of enemies, haven't you?

There are four very common ways we have of dealing with our enemies but none of them are very creative and one way of dealing with them is to go for revenge. 'I'll get you if it is the last thing I do' and another way is to write them off, to ignore them, resolving never to have anything more to do with them. Yet another way of dealing with our enemies is to decide to greet them, talk with them a little but not, definitely not, get too close to them. The fourth way is more subtle than all the rest. Here we say, 'I'll love them but don't ask me to like them.' I remember the great British preacher, Dr Donald Soper taking this line. You can love, you can help everyone without having to like them. For a while this satisfied me but now I have come to the conclusion that I would hate to be loved by people who didn't like me. I'd far rather they left me alone. God preserve us from the do-gooders who have to grit their teeth while doing us some good!

If these four ways are unsatisfactory, and they are seen to be so when one remembers Jesus' command to love our enemies, how must we love our enemies? I want to make three suggestions which are growing edges for me at the moment. First, we must pray and pray seriously for our enemies. One of the most helpful suggestions that I have ever come across was made by Morton Kelsey in his excellent book *Caring*. He encourages us to pray for our enemies using the Lord's Prayer. If Brian, for instance, were the one for whom we were praying the prayer would go like this: 'Brian's Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name Brian. Your Kingdom come in Brian. Your will be done in Brian as it is done in Heaven. Give Brian today his daily bread and forgive him and help him to forgive others. Do not bring him to the test but deliver him from the evil one. Let his joy be in your Kingdom, your power and your glory. Amen'. Such prayer would be very effective. Secondly we must search, in our enemy, for something we can admire. Yes, I know that our hurt or our anger can blind us to anything good in them. But find something to admire in them by removing, through sharing with someone you can trust, your hurt and anger clouded spectacles. Thirdly resolve to do something helpful for your enemy. This is what St Paul wrote to the Romans and he was quoting Proverbs. 'If your enemy hunger feed him, if he is thirsty give him a drink.' Do something that gives your enemy joy. The effect can be quite dramatic.

Love your enemies. Truth to tell I know of no other way that grows us faster than this. Never fear then that we will one day run out of enemies. God will place a few more in our path because he has an investment in our growth.

Revd George Irvine, Port Elizabeth.

Why not make a start now?

When I visit Branches, you always have plenty of comments and often some criticism of the contents of *Point Three*. But few of you write to *Open Forum* to air your views. We will never have too many readers' letters.

We can print only what you send us: we have no staff of reporters or feature writers. I know that many members and many Branches and Groups have stories to tell that would interest other readers.

Good pictures are always in short supply though many of you have cameras. When you're using them, don't do what the local press photographer is inclined to do, ie line everyone up and take a 'still life' group. Take pictures of people doing things. When you send them to us, it helps a lot if you send good, clear prints – preferably black and white, though sharp colour prints are usable. Not, please, transparencies or negatives. And don't forget to tell us what the picture is and who took it. If you send us a press photograph, remember to ask permission for us to reproduce it.

Why not make a start now?
FGR

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during March/April.

- 4 — Anstey (W)
- 3 — Bognor Regis (J), Troon (W)
- 2 — Aigburth (W)
- 1 — Andover (J),
Ashby-de-la-Zouch (M),
Birmingham District, Deal &
Walmer (J), Dover (W),
East Barnet (J),
Edinburgh Seventy Five (J),
Finchley & Whetstone (W),
Glen Parva (W), Gorleston (J),
Harpenden (J), Medway &
Sheppey District, Melton
Mowbray (M), Rushden (M),
St Annes-on-Sea (J),
Tubby's Poperinge (J) Group.

A warm welcome to 28 new members

CAPITAL RADIO 194 Venture Day - 24 June 1984

BATTERSEA PARK, LONDON

It's happening again! and it's FREE! Excitement; a challenge; fun; laughter; learn something new — whatever you want, it's here!

Come and help us out on 24 June in the Toc H arena, where we will be providing challenging activities for all sorts of people as well as a chance to publicize Toc H to the ¾ million people who will be there!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Enquiries to: Judi Edwards, Project Development Officer,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Please Note Correct Date - 24 June 1984

10,000,000 OAPs!

by Arthur E Davies

There are now more people living on pensions than there are children at school. We comprise one fifth of the population; it is estimated that by 1990 only two fifths of the population will be of working age. The over 85s will increase by a staggering 42% in the period 1976-96.

Before we consider some of the social implications, let us ask the question, 'What is old?' and then take some of the answers given firstly by society and then by us.

Society thinks in terms of stereotypes ('Grandma Giles', 'Dad's Army', and that most derogatory of all descriptions 'old woman'; why is it there is often a connotation of affection and dignity when we refer to someone as 'old man'?). We the elderly, tend to fit into the mould society has created for us. We conform (the sale of deaf aids in the USA has risen by 500% since the President has taken to wearing his!) But older isn't necessarily dafter! ('80% of the over 80s are of sound mind' — Dr Eric Midwinter*.)

How do we see ourselves? Are we different? Or are we, as someone suggested, 'just people who have been taught to do nothing?'. . . Dr Keith Thompson writes: 'The physical changes of age, the greying hair, the wrinkling

skin, the slowing down of physical movements and so on are relatively unimportant, compared with being brain-washed into thinking one must live one's life in the shadows and on the sidelines'.** Are we too quiescent? Do we accept rightable wrongs with quiet resignation? Many elderly people put up with physical pain or discomfort — quite wrongly — as part of the ageing process when their condition is not only treatable, but also curable.

But a slow transformation in community attitudes is taking place. There's more research, often inspired by *Age Concern*. This scientific approach is producing new statistical information and attitude surveys by the use of sampling techniques. How better to dissipate the myths of conventional wisdom? We learn, for example, that 95% of the elderly are living in their own homes, yet local government social services (on average) spend no less than 50% of their budget on residential care! Old people dread being institutionalised: they — we — want to stay as long as we can where we are, in familiar surroundings and among the people we know.

Fortunately, much more effort — both in the statutory and the voluntary services — is being focused on domiciliary care

Note: A Cheltenham Branch member has sent us this summary of an address given by Mr Davies (not himself a Toc H member) to their Branch. He thought it worth a wider circulation — and I agree! — Editor

(jargon for 'supporting people living at home'). A modest example is the Home Visiting Service (of which the speaker had been Hon Organiser since his retirement eight years ago) which provides visitors on a long term basis for lonely pensioners (nearly half the over 75s live alone, 17 out of every 20 are women, and more than one in three said 'They never dreamed they could be as lonely as they are now' — Dr Mark Abrams).***

Do we measure age chronologically? This is about as sensible as judging a piece of music by the length of the score! Or mentally, or spiritually? Each realm surely makes the 'whole' person. We are living longer; let us put our increased years to good use in the community. We have a lot to offer — experience, 'know how', sagacity. T S Eliot said 'Old men ought to be explorers'. Who better than Toc H to encourage the elderly to do things. . . to get cracking?

* Dr Eric Midwinter, Director of the Centre for Policy of Ageing, in 'Ten Million People' written in concert with his 5 BBC1 Television programmes.

** Dr Keith Thompson writes 'Dot Spot' for the monthly paper, 'Yours', produced by 'Help the Aged'.

*** Dr Mark Abrams was formerly Head of Surveys, Social Science Research Unit.

Round and about

Suffolk Punch!

Our correspondent Dot Turner sends news from Colne/Orwell District.

Sudbury Women's Branch members turned waitresses at the 80th birthday party of Evelyn Bareham, their Branch Chairman. Evelyn is also a member of her church choir and PCC and still actively involved in a local senior citizens' club which she founded some years ago. At the party, Sudbury's Rector passed on the thanks, congratulations and good wishes of all Evelyn's many friends and admirers.

Trimley Branch are still glowing from a recent local tribute. They had arranged to book their local hall for a tea party as the climax of a mystery drive for the elderly mounted by a neighbouring Toc H Branch. The hall committee wrote back waiving the charge in view of 'all the good, unsung work your organisation does for and in our community...'

The cults are growing

'FAIR News' the newsletter of Family Aid, Information and Rescue, which warns against the dangers of cult involvement, reports a 'worrying increase' in activity in cults of all sizes.

They have a list of over 100 groups ranging from miniscule local sub-Christian deviations, through a multitude of pseudo-scientific and marginally Eastern based philosophies, to the more monolithic and well known such as the Moonies, Children of God etc.

FAIR say they are getting more persuasive all the time; many may seem harmless and may actually say things like 'We're not like the Moonies' but, says FAIR News, 'underneath lurk the same tragic stories of personality disruption, family break-up, and unquestioning obedience to a leader whose claims, to any rational person, would seem utterly laughable.'

SCANS reach majority

SCANS (South Cheshire and North Staffordshire Children's Holiday Committee) recently celebrated their 21st birthday: chief guests at the reunion were the founders of the scheme and the Mayor and Mayoress of Crewe and Nantwich.

In an anniversary booklet, founder Cliff Morse recalls the first idea. In 1960, Manchester Toc H asked their colleagues in Nantwich to provide food

for a party of children being taken to Rhyl: in return, Manchester took some children from Crewe and Nantwich. Three years later SCANS was set up with representatives of local voluntary bodies and with Mayor Jim Golding in the chair.

Each year SCANS takes parties of children aged 7 to 10 from deprived families for a seaside holiday they could not otherwise enjoy. Since 1969, the holidays have been held in the purpose built Toc H Rhyl Centre and there is no cost whatever to children or parents.

(Incidentally, I notice from an article in the *Crewe Chronicle* that dancer Julie Williamson, who recently went to St James' Palace to collect her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, included in her citation her work with SCANS residential Rhyl holidays.)

Wessex District

Our regular correspondent Reg Collins again passes on news from Wessex District.

The District's annual dinner and dance was once more held in Bournemouth's Embassy Hotel: more than £30 was raised for District Funds in a bumper raffle.

Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch held their annual rededication service at Iford United Reform Church in February. Later in the same month, they celebrated the 12th anniversary of the formation of their Joint Branch (though Toc H has existed in Bournemouth since the early '20s). A large gathering of members and friends heard Toc H President Revd Kenneth Bloxham BD give a fascinating survey of the Movement's history. After an excellent tea and the cutting of the birthday cake, the day ended with the Ceremony of Light.

Congratulations to...

1. **Coningsby (Lincs) Joint Branch** who celebrated their 52nd birthday in March. The rededication service at St Michael's Church was attended by well over 100 members and friends. Chairman Alf Akrill welcomed the guests and conducted the Ceremony of Light. Branch Padre Pastor Brown led the Service with Mrs Brown reading the Lesson. The rector (Fr Bernard Parsons) preached on the theme 'The Light of the World'. Following the Service, Branch members served the guests with refreshments. Branch Secretary Phyllis Neal 'cut the cake.'

2. **Thomas Walker Harrison and his wife Jessie** who celebrated their Golden Wedding in March. The couple met in Settle and were married there in St John's Methodist Church. After several moves, they settled in Calverley, near Leeds, where they are both still actively involved in church and other voluntary work. Among the guests at their celebratory party, were eight grandchildren, an evacuee from Brighton who lived with them during the war years and relatives from near and far. Mr Harrison became a Toc H member in Settle in 1936 and is currently a member of Bramley (Leeds) Joint Branch.

Quotation time

1. Some time ago, Frances Beeton sent us the following 'point to ponder' from the news letter of the Othona Community:

'Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century; without coal fires until the 14th; without buttered bread until the 16th; without tea, coffee and soap until the 17th; without gas, matches and electricity until the 19th; without cars and canned or frozen food until the 20th. Now what was it you were complaining about?'

2. From '50 years of Margate Men's Branch':

'... the early days must have been stirring times and it is fascinating to read in an annual report of the mid-thirties that the Pilot felt the average age of the membership was too low!'

and briefly...

Richmond Joint Branch hosted this year's annual social evening for members of the International Friendship league...

We have written more than once about the **Toc H Juniors** rugby team based on Port Penrhyn and note that they are now getting a good deal of press coverage. The latest report to reach us gives a sitrting account of their mid-March game against Hoylake - final score Hoylake 8, Toc H Juniors 22!

Hereford Joint Branch report a fine record. Each Christmas for the last 33 years (so far!) they have set up a Christmas tree in Hampton Grange Home for the Blind and followed this with a Christmas Eve visit, taking a gift plus time for conversation to each resident.



'LETTER FROM AMERICA' -7



by Margaret McGettrick

When trouble strikes

Moving house as frequently as we do presents some practical problems often left neglected. When I was nursing, the first thing we did when working on a new ward was to familiarize ourselves with emergency procedures. It should be the same when moving to a new house. Many of the houses here are wood-frame buildings as opposed to brick, and as such are a real fire hazard. Also, most houses have an amazing array of windows — an inner window, a mesh mosquito netting and an outer storm window — how one is expected to get out in the event of a fire, heaven only knows! My utter ignorance and helplessness was brought vividly to mind last week when I smelled burning and discovered a small

fire smouldering in the garage. Our 'fancy' automatic garage doors had come down on the children's double buggy and jammed. Left undetected for half an hour, the motor was smoking and smouldering in the ceiling. Oh, for the good old '999' that everyone can remember in England — fortunately I had stuck our local emergency number on to the telephone. What to do next? I did not know how to locate power points, even how to switch off the mains and had no fire extinguisher in the house. It was as much as I could do to get the children out of the house. I was in such a panic I couldn't even remember our telephone number. As I awaited the fire brigade, in my mind's eye I saw our home and possessions go up in flames. I had never thought of what it must be like for

those who do go through such a tragedy. Our problem was soon sorted out — what marvellous people those firemen are and how glad I was to see them.

The old girl guide motto to 'be prepared' would have been a good one for me to have followed. We always think that mishaps happen to other people, don't we? The frightening thing is that when an emergency does occur you have to make decisions quickly and, being in a panic, find you're unable to think straight. In future, I will try to rehearse such a situation so that I'm not caught unawares next time!

*Yours ever
Margaret*



Valere Deroo Chairman of the Swans Toc H Group, Talbot House, Poperinge, with Father Christmas and children from a Rehabilitation Centre, who were entertained during the Christmas Season.



Photo: Evesham Journal

In February, Broadway (Wores) Branch celebrated their Golden Jubilee with a 'Jubilee Guest Night' attended by some 200 members and friends. Guest speaker George Lee, in a stirring address, reminded those present that a Jubilee marked, not the end of an era, but the start of a new and challenging experience. Evesham Operatic and Dramatic Society staged a selection of music from 'Oklahoma' and Branch Padre Revd Walter Johnson led homegoing prayers.

Cuddesdon House

There will be two Painting and Music weeks in 1984. In each case, the full cost — board, accommodation and tuition fee — is £66 (£40 for children under 12)

The dates are:

- July 21—28
- September 30 — October 7.
- If you could go to either week, please state your order of preference.

These holiday weeks offer an

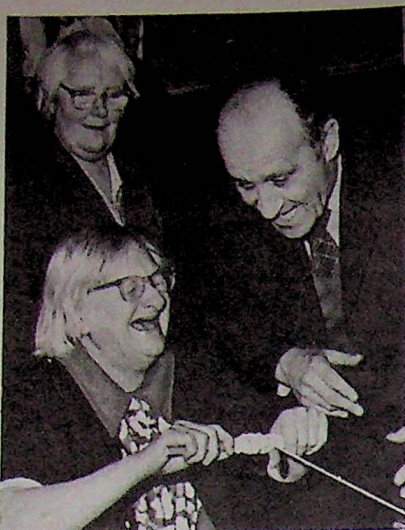
opportunity to anybody between 0 and 100 to indulge in a bit of art and/or music, in the lovely setting of the Toc H Centre, Cuddesdon House in Oxfordshire. Beginners and 'old hands' are equally welcome, and there are opportunities to paint, draw, sing, play an instrument, or simply to 'stand and stare'.

Applications and enquiries to:
Miss Christine McCaskie, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Quiet Weekend

Date: 28 - 30 September
At: Cuddesdon House, Cuddesdon, Oxford.
Led by: Revd Frank Topping, Toc H National Chaplain.
Cost: £20

Enquiries and applications forms from: Miss Christine McCaskie, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT (Tel. Wendover (0296) 623911).



Nora got to grips with the games at Buckingham Branch's annual party for Mencap. This year the Branch entertained 54 Mencap members of all ages – all of them from group homes in nearby Winslow.

Although we've come a long way...

by Philip Carter

Over the years, I have always enjoyed the company of my fellow man. That must not delude you into thinking that I under

value the society of females – though admittedly some ladies of great puchritude have shown less enthusiasm for my company than I would have preferred! In fact, one of the most gorgeous damsels of my early acquaintance is reported to have dismissed me as '... a dry old stick'. The fact that she was only 16, whilst I had attained the ripe old age of 19, may explain her harsh judgement.

However, the fact remains that most of my closest companions are, like myself, pensioners. I have just returned from lunching with my Club, membership of which is exclusive to 'Retired Business Men or Pensioners of H M Forces'.

Apart from our shared antiquity, we are a very 'mixed bag'. The five fellows who shared my table were one cashier, two departmental heads, one broker and one public relations officer.

By 'Waggon Train' to Poperinge - a Diary

by Frank East

Friday

A sunny day. Gathered round 'Waggon Master' John Burgess and stowed food for the trip. Luggage stacked on the roof of No 1 Waggon and sheeted down. At 7.45 'waggons roll' and we were off. Reached Dover at 11.30, filled the tank, and caught the noon hovercraft: disembarked at 1.10 pm. A brief stop to eat sandwiches (and attend to other things!). We had landed at Calais, and the natives were friendly. At 2.30, we set off in high spirits for the last lap to Talbot House – about 50 miles. Our 'train' consisted of a Toc H minibus, and Peter's private car. After a delay of more than an hour (an argument with a French car), arrived at Poperinge at 6.30 pm, to be greeted by Wardens Ivy and Charles Swan with a cup of tea. To our rooms, unpack and down to the market square for our evening meal at the D E Ranke Restaurant (excellent evening meals for the rest of the week). A fair had pitched camp on the market square, (Festival week) so we were treated to music, laughter and gaiety and a chance to meet the locals. They got better as we got to know them – so many speak English and liked to talk...

Saturday

Waggon Master gallantly volunteered to cook breakfast – traditional bangers and beans with all the trimmings. Announced that a bus would be leaving for Ieper, returning at 12.30 pm. It was market day, and there were many fine buildings to see. Saw the Cathedral, now restored to

its former glory after being razed to the ground in WW1. Then to St George's Church (truly English) and a War Memorial and met some nice people. On to the Menin Gate and a couple of museums. Tea and cakes, and back to the 'ranch' to rest: more tea in the garden! Dinner, a beer at the market square, and watching the world go by and the locals enjoying themselves at the fair...

Sunday

The highlight of our week! Volunteers called for (you, you and you!). Found myself paired with a very capable lady (Jean) to cook a full Sunday breakfast. We got a round of applause! Getting into the real Toc H spirit, everyone helped with the washing up. Waggon Master turned Padre, and led us in a moving short service in the dining room. Some of us then went for a walk, visiting a war cemetery close by. Leader John (not just a pretty face) cooked an excellent mid-day meal and when this was over we prepared to take up positions for the procession to come by. Seats from the garden, crowds began to gather, and excitement increased as the time crept up to 3 pm – the time it should have started. The procession was late, but worth waiting for – police horses, tableaux, bands, children (in all manner very seriously). Even a flock of sheep, who, it would appear, had been taught to march in step with dogs and shepherd! Told that this annual procession was to give thanks to the Virgin Mary for giving

them prosperity ever since 1369... Short of time – a long programme ahead. Waggon Master got the whip out. High tea and a quick dash to Ieper, for evening service at 6 pm at St George's. A warm welcome by the Vicar and his sidesmen. After service round to their club for drinks and a natter to get to know them better. Into the 'waggon' again, and up to the Menin Gate for the Last Post at 8 pm. All traffic is stopped at precisely this time and crowds of people gather under the Arches. Silence, and three buglers step forward to sound the Last Post, echoing under the Arches – very moving indeed. This has taken place every night since 1918. Back to the 'waggon' and a steady trot back to the 'ranch', to sit in the cool of the evening – a memorable day...

Monday

After breakfast, Boss announced it would be a good day for the seaside. So off to De-Panne, about 20 miles – near Dunkerque. A much larger place than I had imagined – trams running down the main street, acres of sands, and almost a mile to the sea when the tide was out. Ideal for kids and there were thousands of them! Still, plenty of room for everyone and all very friendly. Lots of shops and outside cafes. Some of us got our feet wet, and some even got wet all over. On the way home, passed a windmill which was still grinding corn. I felt the pace was a little too fast for me as I was anxious to look round Talbot House, to read all Tubby's writings and letters sent him from people like the Queen and other

Before our speaker began, my companions' talk ranged over *'This morning's headlines. . .'*, *'Did you hear that. . .'* and *'What are you going to do about. . .?'*

There is, of course, one forbidden topic, the one that begins with the ominous phrase, *'When I was a boy. . .'*, for have we not grown out of childish things, and aspired to the wisdom of maturity? On this score, of course, we encounter some difficulty, because we cannot agree at what age infancy gave way to experience.

Whether all the changes are for the better, or whether they are all as lamentable as would at first sight appear, is, of course fruitless ground for debate. For every one of us who regrets the passing of *'the good old days'* there is almost certain to be at least one who looks, optimistically, into the *'glorious future of outward looking man'*.

great personalities. There is so much to remind one of Tubby, that you get to thinking you will meet him on the stairs, or in the garden.

Tuesday

Back to full strength: Peter's car back to good running order. So, with a full 'waggon train', set off for Bruges, about 50 miles away. This beautiful city has a large square dotted all round with cafes, some very fine buildings and of course the famous clock tower that plays a fine peal every 15 minutes. A trip on the canal here is a must. The 'driver' of the boat spoke in three different languages, changing so quickly that it was difficult to follow. Apart from the fine old buildings, what struck us most were the window boxes on every house or building and along the canal banks. After a little refreshment, time to get back to the bus and wait for 'waggons roll' again. Finished tired but happy. Very hot and oppressive: while we were at dinner a violent thunderstorm catching many of us in our shirtsleeves. . .

Wednesday

After a good breakfast, cooked by the 'press gangs', set off for a tour of war cemeteries and places of interest. First to Kemmel, where there was an observation tower on top of one of the few hills in the district: this tower had been destroyed in the war as it was possible to see leper. Then to Sanctuary Wood Cemetery to see Gilbert Talbot's grave. Followed this with a visit to the Pool of Peace, a crater 40 feet deep and 250 feet wide, purchased by Lord Wakefield and given to Toc H. Then to Hill 60 — famous name of course — changed hands four times during the war and cost many lives. Next Hill 62, where we had lunch and saw the museum, and a

The teaching of dead languages — Latin and such — has often been defended as the only way in which the *'Wisdom of the ancients'* can be fully appreciated. I sometimes wonder if, hundreds of years hence, when we all speak one international language, we'll also be urged to master the *'dead language'* of the old twentieth century so that we may better understand the aspirations of the people before the First Age of Broadcasting. The least one can hope is that our future great great great grandchildren will be able to accept, and sympathise with, the almost unbelievable handicaps under which the Common Man laboured, before micro-processors were able to put the world's knowledge at his fingertips.

Our fathers saw the internal combustion engine replace both horse and coach. We, in our turn, find the crystal set giving way first to the radio valve, and, later, to the intricacies of television. We even come to

rely on closed circuit television, both to catch shoplifters, and to help train microsurgeons. Perhaps, even within our lifetime, we will be able, not only to project our unspoken thoughts worldwide, but also to know what is in the minds of people the world over?

Then, indeed, will the world need all the philosophers it can muster, all the lovers of wisdom its development has inspired.

Now that atomic power has come partially within man's capability, and the Cosmos is being explored in ever increasing depth, our individual abilities

*To love widely
To build bravely
To think fairly
To witness humbly*

are challenged, and needed, as never before.

Howitzer gun. Some trenches left just as they were all those years ago. A Canadian cemetery just up the road — the site where 2,000 men had perished in a gas attack. One more Canadian memorial at St Julian and a German cemetery at Langemark — very spartan by comparison with ours. Next on to Tyne Cot (on the slopes of Passchendaele where 35,000 men were buried). We were fairly near to leper so dropped in for a cuppa before going back to the 'ranch' to smarten up for dinner. . .

Thursday

A day set aside for buying last minute presents. John was going to leper in the bus and we were welcome to join him. Went with the Burgess family to Bellawarde, a Safari Park and miniature 'Disney World'. Lots of animals and rides of all sorts: enjoyed it as much as the kids did. Back in Poperinge, the afternoon hot and sultry for the last of our shopping. In the evening the local Branch of Toc H turned up and we sat in the garden talking and laughing. Then to the Upper Room for prayers and Light, in both forms, taken by Renee and Peter. . .

Friday

Today, reluctantly, we have to leave for home. Breakfast taken hurriedly, the luggage stowed on top of the 'waggon'. The familiar 'waggons roll' and we were away to Calais but the Channel was fog bound and we had a four hour wait, finally reached Dover at 4.30 pm and Hatfield at 8 pm. Some tearful farewells...

Looking back as I write this story, I feel I know a lot more about Toc H than before and I also feel I belong to the family of Toc H more than I did. Why not try it?

For your diary

Cotswold Quiet Day

Sunday 8 July 1984

Once again there will be a Quiet Day in the Cotswolds this summer — this time on Sunday 8 July at the Friends Meeting House, Vicarage Street, Painswick, Glos. The day will be led by Honorary Regional Padre, the Revd Canon Hugh Potts, and will take the following shape:

- 11.00 Friends 'Meeting for Worship' to which any Toc H members are cordially invited.
- 12.00 A chance to talk with the Friends, and share a 'cuppa'.
- 12.30 Lunch — Bring your own food. Drinks provided.
- 2 pm Quiet time, with two brief to session, and time to be quiet,
- 4 pm to go for a walk etc.
- 4.15 Tea and biscuits provided.
- 5.00 Homegoing Prayers.
- 6.15 Evensong at the Parish Church for those who wish to stay on for that.

The cost of the day is £1.00 per head. Please inform John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7BZ if you are going to come.

LEPROSY

1984 is Lepra's Diamond Jubilee
association with Lepra's work
information on the illness and its
years story.

Leprosy — the Facts

There are an estimated 15 million leprosy sufferers in the world today, with the greatest concentration in Africa, India and SE Asia, although it is still found in parts of Europe, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Holland, Turkey and Russia. It is also present in the Pacific Islands, Australia, Central and South America, with between 3,000 and 5,000 cases in the United States. There are just under 400 leprosy patients in the British Isles, all of whom have contracted the disease overseas, with many being treated in their own homes — while others are catered for at a residential centre near Chelmsford.

Leprosy is not in any sense a tropical disease. The high incidence of leprosy in tropical countries is due to socio-economic conditions — overcrowding, low living standards, poor nutrition and hygiene — which appear to foster the disease.

History

Leprosy can be traced back many centuries before Christ with references to the disease found in the writings of Ancient Greek and Roman physicians. It spread to Europe, keeping pace with the expansion of the Roman Empire.

Leprosy's association with sin was only challenged when returning Crusaders found themselves afflicted but even then, the measures taken did little to alleviate suffering. For instance:

in 1346 Edward Third issued an Ordinance banning leprosy sufferers from London;

marriage was prohibited and if a married person became afflicted, divorce was permitted;

special dress had to be worn and a bell or rattle carried as a warning;

public buildings were put out of bounds and participation in religious services had to be by means of the 'leper's squirt'.

Leprosy was contracted in England from Saxon times until 1798, when the last recorded indigenous case — a shepherd in the Shetland Isles — died. Treatment was provided at hospitals and Lazar Houses named after the nursing order of the Knights of St Lazarus.

Medical History

Leprosy is a chronic disease caused by a bacillus which was identified by a Norwegian doctor, C Armauer Hansen, in

1874. The disease primarily affects the nerves of the hands and feet and secondarily involves the skin and other tissues.

There are two main types of leprosy:

Tuberculoid (pauci-bacillary) which is not infectious and exists in people with a high degree of natural resistance. Very few germs are present but the vigour of the body's efforts to reject them can cause serious damage to the nerves.

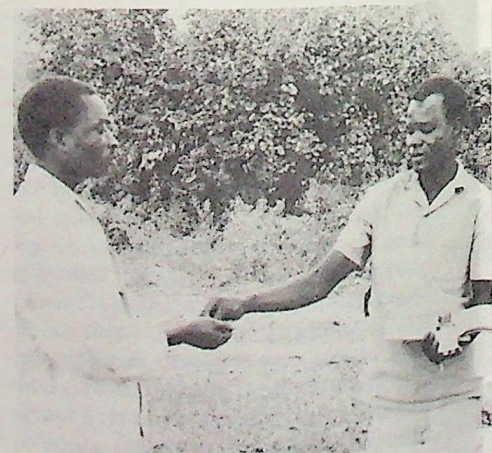
Lepromatous (multi-bacillary) is highly infectious and is the kind which occurs when the body has little or no resistance. The germs multiply without restraint infiltrating and thickening the nerves.

Disfigurement occurs for a number of reasons. The features become distorted because the skin is thickened; the nose may collapse because of the effect of the bacillus on tissues; the voice box can be attacked; muscles are weakened and control over the eyelids, in particular, may be lost with resulting blindness; fingers may become clawed and through wastage and absorption of bones, give the appearance that digits have dropped off.

The leprosy germ is very slow growing and the disease can take up to five years to manifest itself. Patches appear on the skin and the area loses sensation, and unless the disease is checked at this stage, deformity and progressive loss of sensation will occur. Limbs without feeling are vulnerable to slight wounds which easily become infected without the person knowing, leading to ulceration which, particularly in feet, is very difficult to treat.



Photos: Lepra



A patient is given his tablets by a Leprosy Control Assistant at an outdoor clinic in Malawi.

... In view of our long and close
have asked them for updated
atment and an outline of their 60

Lepra Progress Report 1924-1984



1924-1984



Babo, near the poor house of the leprosarium where he lives with his parents. He is a clever child, but what will be his future? (Malawi)

Treatment

The treatment of leprosy was revolutionised with the discovery of the sulphone drug Dapsone in the 1940s. Treatment with Dapsone had to be regular and sustained, usually on a daily basis, for a minimum of three years for tuberculoid cases and for life for lepromatous. In the 1970s strains of M leprae resistant to Dapsone became apparent.

The introduction of multi-drug therapy recommended by the WHO in the '80s has reduced the treatment of tuberculoid cases from three years to six months and for lepromatous patients from life to two years.

Researchers have been working for many years to find a vaccine so that leprosy can be relegated to the same status as smallpox. Field trials of a vaccine to prevent leprosy should take place in the next few years.

1920s

The association, initially known as the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (BELRA), was set up in 1924 by a former secretary to the Mission For Lepers in India, Frank Oldrieve, Sir Leonard Rogers, an ex-Major General in the Indian Medical Service, and philanthropist Sir Frank Carter. With the Prince of Wales as its patron and the support of a wide range of notable and interested people the association was launched with the aim of ridding the Empire of leprosy!

The first overseas branch of the association was established in India followed in 1926 by further branches in Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Barbados and British Guyana. By the end of 1928 the association had branches in 12 countries.

Treatment at this time was based on the use of chaulmoogra oil and segregation.

1930s

In 1933 the Revd Tubby Clayton — founder padre of Toc H — began his historic connection with the British association, implementing the idea of lay workers for overseas service. He also introduced fund raising as a routine part of the overall work of the association.

In 1937 the association's Child Adoption Scheme got off to a modest start: 12 children sponsored for £5 each.

1940s

Early in the 1940s a new drug — Dapsone — was introduced as an effective treatment for leprosy although it was some time before a method was found to give this drug easily. Once it had been established that an extremely low dosage administered by injection was beneficial without creating side effects, it was a relatively small step to give the drug in tablet form — a cheap, effective treatment that could be supervised by lay workers.

1950s

The association's income continued to increase, and the Child Adoption Scheme

continued to flourish with the Queen and four other members of the Royal family 'adopting' children. The World Health Organisation was set up by the United Nations, and co-operation between the association and the WHO was quickly established.

1960s

The association's name was changed to LEPRO and the first control project — endorsed by the WHO — was established in Malawi, setting the pattern for domiciliary treatment.

The Children's Leprosy Treatment Fund was launched to promote the expansion of out-patient work for children denied assistance through the adoption scheme.

1970s

LEPRO attained international status, freeing the association to work outside the Commonwealth and joined ILEP (The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations).

The number of control projects increased in Malawi against a background of mounting evidence that strains of M leprae were resistant to Dapsone. Dual drug therapy was introduced to counteract this in 1975.

1980-1983

LEPRO's resources are at present largely concentrated in Malawi, where it is responsible for nationwide control as co-ordinator for ILEP, as well as on research, training and work with children.

The whole of Malawi is now covered for leprosy control and LEPRO employ more than 250 staff there.

LEPRO commenced multi-drug treatment in Malawi, reducing the duration of treatment for tuberculoid leprosy from three years to six months and for the lepromatous from life to two years plus.

The Children's Fund — started in the 1960s — also continues to make a valuable contribution, last year treating 21,000 children in 18 countries, including 34 centres in India.

RIPPLES IN THE POOL by Eric Smith

A couple of summers ago, I was finishing a three week tour of France, Germany and Belgium, visiting people I have got to know over the years. It was a journey I had planned for a long time and been prevented from doing for various reasons. The planning was not quite what I wished either. I had to do the trip the opposite way round from what I intended and the result was that I approached Poperinge from Germany.

Anyone who is at all sensitive to the atmosphere of Flanders will appreciate the thoughts that arise in the minds of those of us who can remember the two World Wars – especially the 1914-18 War. From the direction of Brussels, one comes down the Menin Road, through the Menin Gate and so on to Poperinge – a straight, flat road, quite narrow and at times busy with commuter traffic. Constantly there are reminders of the past, like signposts to a war cemetery, to Hill 62 and so on. I could not get out of my head as I drove along, the remembrance of the thousands of people who had passed this way, in both directions, in the two Wars, many of them for the last time.

So, with these thoughts in my head, I came to Poperinge and found the people I'd come to see.

I have often heard sermons preached on life being like a pool: if you throw a stone into a pool, the ripples spread and keep on spreading over the surface – but only so long as you keep throwing the stones. Toc H is a practical demonstration of the meaning of the things eternal and, while such places as the Pool of Peace

help us to comprehend this fact, nothing will happen if we just stand there contemplating. The pool has to be disturbed.

I had been in Germany for some days, enjoying the hospitality of a German family after an absence of some 15 years. I am certain that the links that are forged between nations by contacts such as this, will do more for the peace of the world than all the conferences at top level. I was taken aback (although I should not have been) when talking to a German in the Vosges area of France: he volunteered the information that he had encouraged his seven children to visit England, for this very reason. As the underlying stimulus for my tour was this also, I was astonished to hear from such a casual acquaintance, a reiteration of my purpose.

How I came to be in Belgium and enjoying the hospitality there is also an indication of how the ripples on the pool go on from one thing to the next. Months earlier, by chance, I had sat next to a member of the Civic Society, who heard from Poperinge that a party of Belgians were visiting the UK shortly. The mention of Poperinge rang a bell. So I discovered that Tik Valke was the leader of the party and that he is now a member of the Poperinge Group. From this we are arranging visits between Nottingham families and some of his party, whilst they are staying here. Who can tell what further ripples may come from this?

This was my second visit to Talbot House – neither of them with an official party.

Perhaps the informality of my visits gives rise to the feeling that to call visits to the Old House 'pilgrimages' is inappropriate. Are people put off by this type of organised sanctimonious religiosity? I have during my 50 years or so in Toc H always resisted efforts to persuade me to join pilgrimages. I feel that the Talbot House atmosphere today appeals to me more and I can understand what Charlie and Ivy are trying to do in the Old House. They fully deserve and, may I say, need the support of us in the UK in all they are doing. Can we not regard a visit to Poperinge in the same light as we would regard a visit to any other Toc H house? The Branch members in Belgium too will need to get to know us and to count on our support and by visiting them we are more likely to get them to visit us in our Branches and homes. I am certain that there is a warm welcome for anyone visiting Talbot House, so why not give it a try?

Charles and Ivy Swan are eager to welcome you to the Old House. Why not book for a late autumn or winter break? Ferry fares are low then and Talbot House not so busy. The house is centrally heated. There are facilities for self catering and Poperinge restaurants offer very good value.

Accommodation charges are: 350 Belgian francs per night, up to two nights; 300 Belgian francs per night for stays of three nights, and over. The exchange rate in Poperinge is around 80 BF to the £.

Bookings direct to Talbot House, Gashuistraat 43, 8970 Poperinge, Belgium. Tel: STD 010 32 57 333228.



Photo: John Lyne

Launceston (Cornwall) Joint Branch presented a medical chair to the town's hospital recently. In receiving this generous gift, Mrs Morris SNO expressed her personal appreciation of the Toc H ideal of service.



Photo: Eastleigh Weekly

Chandlers Ford (Hants) Men's Branch recently presented a cheque for £66 to the Hexagon Centre for the Disabled. The money was part of the proceeds of their Alexandra Rose Day collection, the major element of which went to Family Purse.

A Toc H Housing Association?

What is a 'Housing Association'?

In essence, it is a non-profit making organisation with the sole purpose of providing homes for the disadvantaged. The poor, the elderly, ethnic minorities, single parent families, the young unemployed, the inadequate, ex-prisoners – these and other groups include many who cannot buy their own houses and cannot find public or private landlords ready to let to them. Their situation has become progressively worse through the operation of the Rent Acts (which make eviction difficult), the moves 'up market' by Building Societies and the heavy financial pressure on Local Authorities. In many of these cases, a Housing Association offers the only hope.

Almost all Housing Associations are charitable bodies. Many major Charities (and Churches) have already set up their own Housing Association.

How is it set up?

We need to meet the full requirements of the following bodies:

1. *The National Federation of Housing Associations.* It is important to register with this body since it gives invaluable aid to its member associations. For example, they would help us to prepare a Constitution and to register it with the appropriate authorities; they will advise on running methods and on obtaining finance. Further, if our Association is accepted as a member of the Federation, it will gain immediate credibility in seeking finance for its housing programme. Preliminary – and very helpful – discussions have been held with the National Federation representative from Buckinghamshire.

2. *The Registrar of Friendly Societies.* We are a Registered Charity and any association using our name must also be a Charity. Moreover, there are many benefits and reliefs open to Charities. This demands registration either with the Charity Commission or with the Registrar of Friendly Societies. In either case the result is the same but it would be less cumbersome, quicker and cheaper to go to the Registrar. If we are accepted by

the Federation (see 1 above), they will do this for us for a cost of £300 which includes the first year's fee for membership of the National Federation.

3. *The Housing Corporation* – a quango set up to supervise the provision of finance to Housing Associations. This is a difficult body to deal with but their acceptance of us is essential if we are to obtain finance for housing schemes.

How is a 'Housing Association Constituted?

The constitution must be approved by the three bodies listed above. The National Federation has developed a model constitution known to be acceptable to the other two bodies: clearly, it would make sense for us to use an adapted version of this model. In any case, the following requirements must be met:

1. There must be a Board of Management to decide policy and to make decisions and this Board must include at least seven members. In our case, the Board would include Toc H representatives but they must not form a majority. All Housing Associations with a 'parent' Charity must be independent of that parent and there are sound reasons for this. Toc H, for example, has a number of objects. But the sole purpose of a Toc H Housing Association would be to provide and maintain housing. If Toc H, through a Board majority, were to control the Toc H Housing Association, then no public finance would be forthcoming in case the parent charity were to use the Housing Association as a back door method of gaining public finance for its other charitable purposes. On the other hand, Toc H must be represented on the Board: it would be using our name and we would need to be satisfied that it was carrying out its declared charitable work, and nothing else.

2. The Board must exclude any members of the firms of any of the Association's professional advisers. Clearly, the Board must not be influenced by anyone who could make a profit from its operations.

At its March meeting, the Central Executive Committee considered a paper prepared by our solicitors and presented by the Finance Committee. After an interesting discussion, the CEC approved the formation of a Toc H Housing Association. Exploratory talks are going ahead and we are hopeful of a satisfactory outcome. By this time, the CEC decision is becoming widely known and it is very important that there should be no room for misunderstanding about what we are aiming to do and why we have agreed to make the attempt.

3. The management will be strictly monitored by the three bodies already described. They will need to be satisfied that proper accounts are kept, that the Association is well and professionally run and that expenses are kept under control.

Aims of a Toc H Housing Association

These must be clearly defined if we are even to get past first base. We are thinking along the following lines:

1. Traditionally, Toc H is the advocate of 'openness', offering its services regardless of age, colour or creed. This openness would need to be reflected in our aims for a Housing Association. They should also be directed towards the greatest need and this is undoubtedly single persons. Thus, we are at present envisaging the supply of flatlets and maisonettes on sites of between ten and 30 units, for a mixture of single persons – young, old, handicapped, etc.

2. We have decided to start if we can in Buckinghamshire for the following reasons. We would not be accepted by the Federation if we chose an area already well provided with Housing Associations. Or if we started with huge areas like 'the South of England'. Most Housing Associations operate in the big city areas. Local Authorities in country areas – particularly in these budget conscious days – tend to be less concerned with providing housing for the disadvantaged. Buckinghamshire has few Housing Associations and our HQ is already there. None of this precludes expansion later into other geographical areas.

How would a Housing Association be financed?

Certainly we should need to obtain our finance from sources outside the Movement. In practice this means from Local Authorities or from the Housing Corporation. Neither is an 'easy touch'! The Corporation will approve finance only for a particular project and even then has complicated formulae for assessing how much they will give. The general principles however, are clear.

/contd on p12

A Toc H Housing Association?

contd from p11

No public finance is available to *set up* in business: we are already investigating other sources but this is the most difficult part of the finance raising process.

Having decided on an initial project, the Association's professional advisers would need to draw up plans and prepare a full feasibility study to submit to the Corporation. If they accept the project, the amount of grant would be worked out by formula but is likely to amount to a grant of 85% of the full cost — the balance to be covered by commercial loan from eg Building Society or Local Authority. Because the grant formula is based on the anticipated 'fair rent' income, the Housing Association must be self financing once the first project is in being.

When completed, the homes are let (to those whom the Association is committed to benefit) at statutory 'fair rents'. Rents are paid either by the tenant or — in part or in full — by the Local Authority. Local Authorities are happy to do this — and often to top up Corporation grants with loans at favourable interest rates — because this enables them to meet their commitment to the disadvantaged without either heavy capital expenditure or the expense and 'hassle' of running housing estates.

Why Toc H?

1. The many other Charities that have moved into this field have found that their Housing Association points up a specific area of work, gives publicity to the parent Charity and gives membership an active role in the areas where homes are built. Certainly we would invite local members to assist in the running of the sites once the homes are let.

2. The Housing Association would be centrally administered but each housing site would need its own voluntary management committee and this could well be formed by local Toc H members — possibly in concert with members of other local voluntary bodies.

3. There may well be many other opportunities for Toc H involvement at local level. For example, community and recreational facilities will be required and these could well be foci for Toc H activities.

4. But — most importantly — Toc H has always sought out real need and moved to help meet it. One of today's most pressing needs is to provide homes for the disadvantaged.

FGR

Open Forum

Talbot House, Poperinge

It was exciting to go back to stay in the Old House again after a three year absence and we were delighted with the warm welcome given to us by Charles and Ivy Swan. The house was in excellent condition and showed the result of being well cared for. The garden was a great surprise — beautifully tidy and well planned — the result of a party of the Army Ordnance Group, in Antwerp. . . A further project by this group is planned shortly to completely strip and repaint the lovely front doors of the House together with the complete frontage. Everyone who loves Talbot House will want to give sincere thanks to them all, especially as there was no cost to the House.

All the Poperinge friends welcomed us back into their homes and we heard all their news and they ours.

The night before we left we had the pleasure of joining the Swan Group at their monthly meeting in the House. It was most interesting to hear their discussion in Flemish and to try and assess what was being said (Charles and Ivy made sure we understood) — we also had our 'innings'. But one thing which distressed us was that the Group felt that a great many members in Britain no longer had any interest in the place where Toc H started. We tried to re-assure them and promised that we would do what we could to make sure the deep interest which has always been prominent in our acceptance of all that Toc H stands for and which started in Poperinge and

Talbot House continued. Without that foundation we would not be in the Movement we love today. The Group would welcome contact with any Branch who would like to write to them, giving them news of what they are doing in their daily interpretation of the Four Points of the Compass.

Agnes M Cook
Cardiff

Long running projects

I was interested to read the account by Alan Brooke and Olive Tennant of the Norfolk Activities Committee (March Point Three) particularly that of *'The Miracle of Hengrave'* and I would like to echo Norfolk's 'Great' to their successfully running of a project for seven years. I know it has sometimes been said that two or three years is long enough for any project: I don't quite know who first said it or why?

We in SE Kent have been running our project ever since 1971 — that's right! Last year was our 12th and we are now planning our 13th (wish us luck!). We agree with Norwich how worthwhile it has proved both to the children and volunteers. Sometimes we have had under privileged children, and sometimes physically and/or mentally handicapped. The volunteers may get more fun with the under privileged children, but more satisfaction from work with the handicapped. Being on a one to one basis for 24 hours a day can become very demanding! Our Movement too derived much benefit. We know of at least a

What Projects Mean to Me

by Grenville Gibbins

It took me over seven weeks to write this piece — to find the words to express what I feel.

Having been a member of Toc H for ten years, I felt that it was time I did something practical for a Movement which has done so much for me. Circumstances or coincidence dictated that I lead the 1983 Conservation week at Strumpshaw Fen RSPB Reserve in Norfolk. I had never camped out before in my life and at the relatively early age of 29 had to have treatment for arthritis for almost a year. I viewed the prospect

with some trepidation as the day drew near for camp to start.

The volunteers were the usual Toc H pot-pourri. There were a Spanish student, a trainee social worker, a public school girl, two keen 16 year old ornithologists, a 17 year old who didn't know why he was there and two boys from a Borstal. (It was unfortunate that our two Borstal friends could not behave and after only two days had to be taken back).

The work on the Fen was hard and blisters were commonplace as we hacked our way through reed beds, burnt stubble

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

dozen cases (and there may be more) of volunteers who have known nothing of Toc H when joining our projects, but have subsequently become project leaders, some of them for many years, and sometimes joining the family as full members. We know of five who will be leaders or assistant leaders in the coming year.

I note Norwich refer to the fact that some years ago Districts were being encouraged to undertake their own projects, which in our experience leads to a greater appreciation of our Movement by the volunteers. But this does call for co-operation by project Regional teams to co-operate in such matters as the choice of volunteers and leaders.

Frank Dives
Hythe

Brightening your Lamp

Once again I have seen in **Point Three** the horrible expression '*as dim as a Toc H lamp*'. I don't know who thought up this expression but that person must have been a pessimist.

When you are lost anywhere, but especially on a foggy moor, and not able to see anything, then the sight of a light, however far distant, brings hope and gives the incentive to make straight for that light.

When I was a Mothers' Union speaker and arrived early at a meeting I always used to go in the local church and even the sanctuary lamp brought life and hope to that church.

etc. We dug out a sluice to the River Yare and concreted the bottom. We made the gates ourselves – and all this under the whip and guidance of Mike Blackburn, the Reserve's Warden.

Our evenings were spent sharing meals and making friends. There was a camp of students on the Reserve. We visited Yarmouth with them, played volley ball and on their final evening had a barbeque. As they were all from Aylesbury, they decided to find out more about Toc H.

As the week came to its close, I found time for reflection. Tubby told us not to bother about getting youngsters into Toc H but to sweat blood to get Toc H into youngsters. Over the week my sweat through hard work had helped to get Toc H into some young people. As the camp broke up, everyone went their separate ways. I prayed that they would live and work throughout the rest of their lives as they had that week.

I am not very good at thinking up these things but what about '*the hope of a Toc H lamp*'? Can anyone think of a more positive expression?

Joyce Bestelink
North Walsham

I can remember the day when Toc H had far more important things to think and write about than the polishing of Lamps. In any case, does the light burn any brighter for it?

George Lee
Tanworth in Arden

Double your money!

In the March issue, under 'Notes from Wendover', David Owen once again brought up the subject of Deeds of Covenant. I do not know of course what the response has been to his appeal but I do know that this is the easiest way of earning extra income for the Movement and at the same time helping Branches to meet their targets.

A glance at the 1983 accounts shows how lacking we are in this respect as tax recovered on Deeds of Covenant represents only 11.5% of total Regional Income and even if only half of the balance was dealt with by this method it would increase the income to Toc H by some £13,000.

I cannot understand why members hesitate to take advantage of committing their giving by Deed of Covenant. A pledge to subscribe only 20p per week (£10 per annum) would

under this method produce an extra £4.20 for the Movement and, if every member did so, Toc H would be the beneficiary of an extra £42,000 viz some £32,000 more than in 1982/83.

If we want Toc H to remain alive and vibrant in the 1980s and beyond then it is up to all of us to ensure that our progress is not impeded by financial constraints.

J R Morgan
Ruislip

The pure air act!

I read the anti-smoking verse in your March issue with some chagrin and guilt (I am one of the Swanwick pipe smokers) but also with some annoyance at the temerity of those '*antis*' who try to thrust their views on others.

Then I penned a meditative reply – it's a pity you cannot reproduce the tobacco smell attached to its contemplation! But I forgot to send it.

On further thought and after some objective comment from a distant source, I would like a suggestion to be considered, by CEC (or whoever is responsible) that smoking is banned in the Central Council Conference Room. We are there for only an hour or so at a time, and there certainly are people whom it can distress medically. It would be ridiculous to argue this in debate, so please ask the 'whoever' to take the plunge and announce a ban this year.

Gerry Conibeer
Leatherhead

I looked around the camp site at the places where the tents had stood and so much had happened. My hands were blistered, my feet and legs so swollen by insect bites that I found it almost impossible to walk. I felt sad and yet elated. I could do no more. I had given everything I had to the week and to those nine people. I had found a special kind of love.

On the following Monday, a letter fell on to my door mat. It was a letter which I delighted in having and one which I shall keep for ever. It told me of the joy and fulfilment that someone else had found during our week together. I have had letters since and have been back to Norfolk for a week to see the Fen and to meet some of those friends again.

I know in my heart that that week will never end. The project is still going on and I thank God for Toc H and for making me part of it.



Fred Mason (left in picture), Toc H Warden of the Verden Club, spent seven weeks organising and cajoling families into attending his Lent lunches. Fred succeeded in raising DM1217-50 and the whole sum was presented by the Senior Chaplain, 1st Armoured Division, to NSPCC.

Photo: Public Relations BAOR

50 YEARS AGO!



In the Toc H Journal for June 1934, W B Morris writes about 'A Reading'. He tells first of his never-to-be-forgotten meeting with Tubby in Poperinge in 1918, when he was a war battered young soldier and of his joy at being able to borrow real books. Then, 14 years later – and still not a Toc H member – he visited All Hallows and found Tubby in the pulpit. He goes on:

I wonder under what heading one should place that sensation, when we seem for a few moments to be re-living an experience that a flash of memory tells us we have gone through before? Going up the centre aisle of the Church after the service that night, I came face to face with 'The Innkeeper'. This time it was not a case of 'may I borrow a book!' but 'may I come to the reading?' Once again were the same words spoken in reply with the same rare gesture of fifteen years before.

I had now no excuse but to go to the reading, and thus I found myself escorted to No 42 by the Innkeeper himself. And there I found the self-same spirit of service that dominated the Old House at Poperinge, something one cannot put into mere words, for it must be felt to be truly realised. This feeling was mine

again that night – it was a homecoming indeed, that made many other nights seem but a twilight in comparison.

Over coffee and cakes we talked for a while and then there came the joy of the reading itself for just about a dozen of us, round the fire in a circle. Tubby came downstairs armed with many tomes, – taking off his collar for greater freedom, pulling out his pipe, and seating himself on the floor amongst us.

What a feast of literature he gave us that night – Dickens, Masfield, St Francis! For an hour-and-a-half he entranced us. Rarely does one have the privilege of listening to a born raconteur who can transform the penned into the living word. Such was the joy of that evening and many others later. Above and around it all there was that complete understanding, and that God-sent laughter which breaks down all barriers – if indeed any existed between us. This was the real Toc H spirit exemplified.

Yes, for me, my wanderings of heart and mind had come round to full circle – from the little library at the Old House, to the 'Reading at Toc H'. Here at last I had found HOME.



Photo: David Harrison

You've got to hand it to them. . . Well done Branches in Beds, Bucks, Herts, N London and New River Districts. A good idea, by Joyce Green (HQ) and her West Central Branch, enabled John Burgess to ask for gloves and mittens to be knitted instead of the usual squares for blankets. 152 pairs, for ages ranging from 4 – 12 years were distributed to East and West London and Luton Bangladeshi children, as Christmas presents from Toc H.

The Spirit of Friendship

by Leslie C Hulley

It's a question often asked I know, but do we experience today the depth of friendship which many of us knew during wartime? We may argue that such friendship was often born amid extremes of danger, and cannot possibly be equalled in relatively peaceful days.

Looking through my collection of wartime cuttings recently, I came across an article on Toc H which I wrote in 1945 for the English language newspaper 'The Brussels Mirror Weekly'.

At the time I was a member of the British liberation army encamped in Belgium prior to our next move into Germany. Within an hour's drive away I discovered the birthplace of the Toc H Movement in the small town of Poperinge. Here in the pleasant confines of Talbot House I met and talked with the Warden, a first war soldier Charles V Young. He had come out from England the previous November to take up his duties; but on arrival had discovered that not a stick of the original furniture was to be found in Talbot

House. Following the German occupation of the country, its doors had been closed in May 1940, and within two months the German army authorities had requisitioned the building.

But here is where the spirit of real friendship asserted itself. The Belgian people had, prior to the occupation, removed to the safety of their homes every article of value. An accurate account was kept of where each article was hidden, and each item was eventually restored to its rightful place. Such was the friendly gesture of a people who, during the intervening years, had identified themselves with the spirit of Toc H.

Recalling even earlier days when the Revd 'Tubby' Clayton first opened an all ranks club within a few miles of Ypres, the scene of perhaps the most bitter fighting of the first world war. Talbot House as we know became more than just a refuge from battle; inasmuch as the spirit of this first Toc H meeting house was carried on

into peacetime. As a result the Movement grew from strength to strength.

How seldom is the pattern of friendship set by Christ included in our life style? Isn't he the friend of sinners; a friend who loves at all times; a friend who is closer than a brother? And surely we all remember the words of exhortation he spoke: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' Christ's sacrifice on the cross at Calvary shortly afterwards proves the truth and sincerity of his statement. We too can walk in newness of life, if by faith we will but call upon his name, and in simple trust embrace this friend and make him our friend.

Do we, I wonder, sometimes take friendship too much for granted? True friendship between people is a God given attribute. But once established it must be cherished. Only then will it blossom forth into the precious relationship which lasts for a lifetime.

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
—Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In September 1983

Margaret A Sutherland (Tayforth District)

In November 1983

Louisa E Topp (Wimborne)

In December 1983

Mrs D Gordon (Redcar)

In January 1984

Alice Pearse (Wroughton)

In February

M 'Lona' Walker (Erewash & Trent Valley District)

In March

Jenny Appleyard (Barrow-on-Humber)

Irene H Bailey (Ashby-de-la-Zouch)

Vernon L 'Eddie' Edmunds (Andover)

Ethel Gallie (Gorleston)

Roy Humphreys (Harpenden)

Anne A Johnson (Owton Manor)

Frederick J A Maullin (Southampton District)

Alexander G Michael (Selkirk)

Alfred G Miller (Buckingham)

Cyril E Pugh (Llandrindod Wells)

Gertrude A Robinson (Rushden)

Jane Tonge (Burraton)

Capt Martin F Whiteley (North

Gloucestershire District)

Kenneth Williamson (East Lancs & Pendle District)

In April

Olive Bentham (Budleigh Salterton)

Ronald L Cook (Felpham)

Arthur I Frymann (Nottingham City)

Grace Powner (Newcastle, Staffs)

George E Sadler (St Thomas, Exeter)

John H Smith (Greathouse)

Wilfred Youngs (Southampton District)

We apologise for a most unfortunate error that we made in the obituary list in our April issue. We recorded there the death of Alice Pearse of Wimborne — happily still very much with us! We understand that Alice took our gross mistake in good part and has forgiven us. What we should have recorded was the death of Alice Pearse of Wroughton — now included in the list in this issue.
— Editor

Howard Hall, Margate Men's longest serving member (he joined the Group in 1936) died in February at the age of 69. At his funeral service the chapel was filled with representatives of the helping organisations with which Howard had worked and with Toc H members from all over Thanet.

Born and educated in Dover,

Howard spent most of his long banking career in Thanet and served as a wartime WO in RAOC. He and his wife Betty were both long standing Toc H members (Howard had held all Branch offices, served both District and Area, had been a Central Councillor and a member of the CEC's Finance Committee) and both deeply involved in the Scout/Guide movement. Howard was Thanet Scout District Secretary for 35 years and long organised their annual Gang Show. He was Treasurer of Westgate Community Association, Toc H representative on Margate's CAB Committee, besides being concerned with the Royal British Legion, RNLI and other bodies.

Margate Men's Branch Secretary writes: '... we are certain to miss him — for his advice, assistance and fellowship.'

We join Thanet Toc H in sending our warmest sympathy to Howard's widow, son and daughter.

Henry William Pennells died in February aged 83. He joined Toc H in 1933 in Sevenoaks and remained a member of the Movement until 1979. He left Sevenoaks to help set up a new Branch in Dunton Green where for many years he served first as Chairman, then as Pilot. A keen sportsman and a dedicated churchman, he also kept a lively interest in parish affairs until the end.

We learn from Pat Turner of the death in February of her mother, Edith James, an ex-member of Luton Women's Branch. Though in recent years, Edith was very disabled with arthritis, she kept a lively interest in Toc H matters. Pat also reports the death of Ken Lane, a former member of Stopsley and Luton Branch.

Bognor Regis Joint Branch Secretary writes to tell us of the death in March of Chloris Morgan — a Builder for almost the past 20 years. For many years before then, she and her husband Jack were members in Acton.

Terry Gray, Harpenden Joint Branch, in reporting the death at the age of 77 of one of their longest serving members, Roy Humphreys, writes: '... A member since 1926, he played a full part in the life of the Branch. His particular interest was our involvement with the Harpenden Branch of the National Children's Home. For 55 years, we have run a bottle stall at their annual Open Day and Roy missed only one of them — through ill health last year.'

Colin Stevenson tells us of the death in March of a very remarkable man — Captain Martin Whiteley — at the early age of 53.

He was a distinguished horseman, twice winning Little Badminton and sharing the British team victory in the three day event in the European championships in 1967. During his three years as Chairman of the Horse Trials Selection Committee, British teams won two European championships and the world championship and collected team and individual gold medals at the Munich Olympics. Martin left the Army in 1960 largely as a result of a back injury and became a master — subsequently house-master — at Eton.

Martin joined the old Central General Branch of Toc H in 1951 and at the time of his sudden death (while umpiring the field game at Eton) he was a N Gloucestershire District member.

Hatfield Branch tell us that one of their long standing members, Molly Roddis, died in March. Molly had been an active Branch member from 1950 until 1981 when she moved from the district. Transport difficulties and then illness prevented her from attending meetings but she always kept in touch and remained a well known figure in SE Herts Toc H circles.

Wednesfield (Staffs) Joint Branch report the death in April of Amy Crumpton, one of their founders and a Toc H member from 1929 to 1972. The Branch Chairman writes: '... her devotion to people changed many lives. Many long standing members... were first introduced to Toc H by Amy to whom no task was too large or too small to tackle... Those of us who knew her were privileged and we thank God for that privilege.'

St Thomas (Exeter) Joint Branch report the death in April of their most senior member, George Ernest ('Pop') Sadler: he was just one week short of his 100th birthday. In recent years, he had lived in Alphin House but his interest in Toc H never waned and Branch members were frequent visitors. The funeral service at Exeter Crematorium was led by his son, Revd Eldred Sadler. Many Toc H members were present and, in accordance with Pop's wishes, the Branch Pilot lit the Toc H Lamp and members recited the Toc H Prayer.

We give thanks for their lives

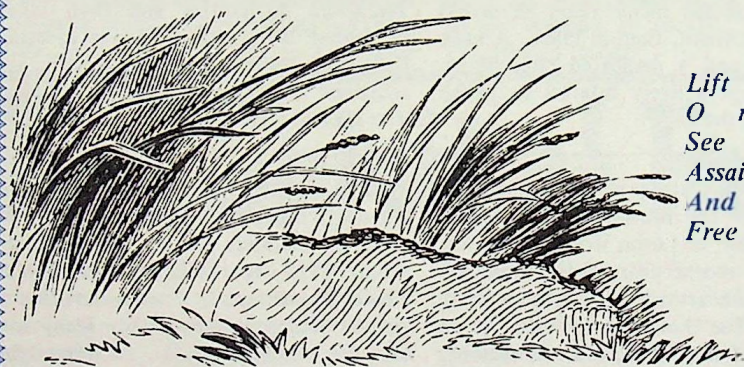
grass in the wind

*O meek, sad, earth-bound, regiment,
To every wind your heads are bent;
To every wind of emptiness
That blows with bluster or caress
Your heads are bent. (Give way. Submit.
Everything round us echoes it.)*



*O Beauty of submission born,
O Pattern exquisitely drawn,
O dangerous easy loveliness,
The lovelier as we oppose the less!
May earth-bound Man have eyes to see
The sinfulness of symmetry.*

*Rank upon ordered rank you bend
Submissive heads. Your voices blend
Into a single rhythmic roar.
The still small voice is heard no more.
And God in Man grown nearer death
With every acquiescent breath.*



*Lift up your heads in discontent,
O meek, sad, earth-bound regiment!
See how the tiniest bird will dare
Assail the fierce resisting air
And upheld by opposition rise
Free of the earth to God-filled skies.*

A G Churcher (1935)

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £10.50 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings. Ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Rockley Sands, Poole, Dorset. Six berth caravan. Live club entertainment on site, heated pool, supermarket. Available May - October. Mrs V Whyte, 5 Doric Avenue, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (Tel: Tunbridge Wells 28253).

Toc H house near sea. Sleeps 4/5. £50 pw to members or sponsored families. SAE 12 Lister Street, Falmouth, Cornwall. Tel: 0326 313513.

King George's House YMCA, 40-46 Stockwell Road, London SW9 9ES. Tel: 01 274 7861. Bed and breakfast from £5.90. Single, twin and multi bedrooms available. Conferences and Groups catered for. Special Group rates. Self-service restaurant, spacious lounge, TV room, laundry facilities, Chapel. Special half board rates available. Over 200 rooms and only ten minutes on the Victoria Line from the West End and major railway stations.

Clacton - 5 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include pool, shops, children's playground and social centre, June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60 pw, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mr J A Turner, 60 Hall End Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9HP. Tel: 0234 768410.

New '84 House Party Holidays for adults in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Opportunities for walking, pony trekking, squash, swimming. All great fun. Certain weeks for singles only under 35s, 35-55, 55+. Open all year. Party bookings. Colour brochure: Longstaff Leisure, 9 Primley Park Court, Leeds LS17 7LQ. Tel: 0532 688927.

Christian Singles. Social events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, weekend houseparties, fellowship groups. Holidays, home/abroad. Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

How would you like to share your interests, ideas and experiences with other Toc H members? The International Friendship League runs a voluntary penfriend service that helps link people from all parts of Britain. Just send a stamped addressed envelope (without obligation) to Mr J Lloyd, IFL Penfriend Service UK, PO Box 117, Leicester.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.